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MEAP Reading Standard Setting Performance Level Descriptors (PLDs)

There are four Performance Levels on MEAP in reading:

- (1) Exceeded Michigan Standards
- (2) Met Michigan Standards
- (3) Basic
- (4) Apprentice

The Reading Standard Setting PLDs define in detail what students at each grade and performance level should know and be able to do in relation to the Michigan Reading Grade Level Content Expectations (GLCEs).

In September 2005, groups of Michigan educators were brought together to develop these PLDs, taking into account both the curriculum framework and the reading assessments themselves. In January 2006, the PLDs were used by Michigan educators, parents, and community members to determine recommended cut scores between the performance levels. The recommended cut scores were formally adopted by the Michigan State Board of Education in January 2006.

In this document, only the first three levels are defined explicitly. The fourth level (*apprentice*) is defined as not meeting the requirements for the *basic* level.

The PLDs are presented in two ways:

1. Within grade level across performance levels—this presentation shows how performance progresses from one performance level to the next within each grade.
2. Within performance level across grades—this presentation shows how student performance progresses from one grade to another within each performance level.

You may note that in reading, some of the skills described do not change much over grade level. This is because the skills themselves do not change, but the reading materials they are based on increase in complexity consistent with the materials students in each grade level are expected to read.

The Reading MEAP given in the Fall in grades 3-8 measured the reading knowledge and skills expected at the end of grades 2-7.

MEAP Reading Grade 3 Performance Level Descriptors (Across Performance Levels)
(Addresses Grade 2 Knowledge and Skills)

Basic (Level 3)	Met (Level 2)	Exceeded (Level 1)
Identifies the main/major ideas and limited details in narrative and informational text.	Identifies important details and how they relate to the main/major ideas in narrative and informational text.	Identifies details and how they relate to and support the main/major ideas in narrative and informational text.
Identifies characters, plots, and settings in text.	Identifies relationships among characters, settings, and plots within and across texts.	Accurately compares and contrasts characters, settings, and plots within and across texts.
Makes some superficial text-to-text connections, possibly revealing major misconceptions.	Addresses specific cross-text task, making connections, revealing understanding despite possible minor misconceptions.	Addresses specific cross-text task, effectively making valid and important connections without misconceptions.
Identifies some text elements and features of different genres.	Identifies text elements and major features of different genres.	Recognizes and explains text elements and features related to different genres.
Identifies some text elements and features authors and illustrators use to convey meaning.	Identifies text elements and features authors and illustrators use to convey meaning.	Analyzes and evaluates a variety of text elements and features authors and illustrators use to convey meaning.
Makes limited use of context cues to determine meaning of frequently encountered words.	Uses syntax, semantic, and structural cues to determine meaning of some unknown words and phrases.	Uses syntax, semantic, and structural cues to determine meaning of unfamiliar words and phrases in context.

MEAP Reading Grade 4 Performance Level Descriptors (Across Performance Levels)
(Addresses Grade 3 Knowledge and Skills)

Basic (Level 3)	Met (Level 2)	Exceeded (Level 1)
Identifies limited details and how they relate to the main/major ideas in narrative and informational text.	Identifies important details and how they relate to and support the main/major ideas in narrative and informational text.	Identifies and analyzes details and how they relate to and support the main/major ideas in narrative and informational text.
Identifies some relationships among characters, settings, and plots within and across texts.	Compares and contrasts characters, settings, and plots within and across texts.	Accurately compares and contrasts characters, settings, and plots within and across texts.
Makes some superficial text-to-text connections, possibly revealing major misconceptions.	Addresses specific cross-text task, making connections, revealing understanding despite possible minor misconceptions.	Addresses specific cross-text task, effectively making valid and important connections without misconceptions.
Identifies some text elements and features of different genres.	Identifies text elements and most features of different genres.	Identifies and explains text elements and features of different genres.
Identifies some text elements and features authors use to convey meaning.	Identifies text elements and features authors use to convey meaning.	Analyzes and evaluates text elements and features authors use to develop a theme and to aid comprehension.
Makes limited use of context cues to determine meaning of frequently encountered words.	Uses syntax, semantic, and structural cues to determine meaning of some unknown words and phrases and multiple meaning words.	Uses syntax, semantic, and structural cues to determine meaning of unfamiliar words and phrases and multiple meaning words in context.

MEAP Reading Grade 5 Performance Level Descriptors (Across Performance Levels)
(Addresses Grade 4 Knowledge and Skills)

Basic (Level 3)	Met (Level 2)	Exceeded (Level 1)
Attempts to retell, summarize, and build inferences based on literal comprehension.	Retells, summarizes, and builds inferences from text.	Demonstrates insightful and accurate understanding by building inferences and making thorough connections within and across texts.
Identifies some relationships among characters, settings, and plots within and across texts.	Identifies and explains relationships among characters and themes within and across texts.	Accurately explains relationships among texts, characters and themes within and across texts.
Makes some superficial connections within and across text, possibly revealing major misconceptions.	Effectively addresses specific cross-text task, making connections and revealing understanding despite possible minor misconceptions.	Responds to specific cross-text task thoroughly and effectively without misconceptions.
Identifies some text elements and features of different genres.	Demonstrates knowledge of different genres, including purposes, text elements, and features.	Shows understanding of different genres, including purposes, text elements, and features.
Identifies some text elements and features authors use to convey meaning.	Identifies author's purpose and use of text elements and features to convey meaning.	Analyzes and evaluates author's purpose and use of text elements and features to enhance meaning.
Makes limited use of context clues to determine meaning of frequently encountered words.	Uses syntax, semantic, and structural cues to determine meaning of some unknown words and phrases and multiple meaning words.	Uses context clues to determine meaning of unfamiliar words and phrases and multiple meaning words in context.

MEAP Reading Grade 6 Performance Level Descriptors (Across Performance Levels)
(Addresses Grade 5 Knowledge and Skills)

Basic (Level 3)	Met (Level 2)	Exceeded (Level 1)
Attempts to retell, summarize, and build inferences based on literal comprehension.	Retells, summarizes, and builds inferences from text.	Demonstrates insightful and accurate understanding by building inferences and making thorough connections within and across texts.
Identifies some relationships among characters, settings, and plots within and across texts.	Identifies and explains relationships among characters and global themes/universal truths within and across texts.	Accurately explains relationships among texts, characters, and global themes/universal truths within and across texts.
Makes some superficial connections within and across text, possibly revealing major misconceptions.	Effectively addresses specific cross-text task, making connections and revealing understanding despite possible minor misconceptions.	Responds to specific cross-text task thoroughly and effectively without misconceptions.
Identifies some text elements and features of different genres.	Demonstrates knowledge of different genres, including purposes, text elements, and features.	Analyzes purposes, text elements, and features of different genres.
Identifies some text elements and features authors use to convey meaning.	Identifies author's purpose and use of text elements and features to convey meaning.	Analyzes and evaluates author's purpose and use of text elements and features to enhance meaning.
Makes limited use of context clues to determine meaning of frequently encountered words.	Uses syntax, semantic, and structural cues to determine meaning of some unknown words and phrases and multiple meaning words.	Uses context clues to determine meaning of unfamiliar words and phrases and multiple meaning words in context.

MEAP Reading Grade 7 Performance Level Descriptors (Across Performance Levels)
(Addresses Grade 6 Knowledge and Skills)

Basic (Level 3)	Met (Level 2)	Exceeded (Level 1)
Attempts to retell, summarize, and build inferences based on literal comprehension.	Builds inferences, summarizes, and applies knowledge from text.	Demonstrates insightful and accurate understanding by synthesizing and applying knowledge from text.
Identifies some relationships among characters, settings, and plots within and across texts.	Connects relationships, themes, perspectives and universal truths within and across texts.	Accurately, insightfully, and thoroughly synthesizes and applies knowledge gained from themes, perspectives, or universal truths within and across texts.
Makes some superficial connections within and across text, possibly revealing major misconceptions.	Effectively addresses specific cross-text task, revealing overall understanding despite possible minor misconceptions.	Responds to specific cross-text task thoroughly and insightfully without misconceptions.
Identifies some text elements and features of different genres.	Demonstrates knowledge of different genres, including purposes, text elements, and features.	Analyzes purposes, text elements, and features of different genres.
Identifies some text elements and features authors use to enhance meaning and to make content accessible.	Identifies how authors use text elements and features to enhance meaning and to make content accessible to readers.	Analyzes and evaluates how authors use text elements and features to enhance meaning and to make content accessible to readers.
Attempts to determine meaning of unfamiliar words encountered in text.	Determines meaning of some unfamiliar words and phrases and multiple meaning words encountered in context.	Integrates multiple strategies to determine meaning of unfamiliar words and phrases and multiple meaning words in context.

MEAP Reading Grade 8 Performance Level Descriptors (Across Performance Levels)
(Addresses Grade 7 Knowledge and Skills)

Basic (Level 3)	Met (Level 2)	Exceeded (Level 1)
Attempts to retell, summarize, and build inferences based on literal comprehension.	Builds inferences, summarizes, and applies knowledge from text.	Demonstrates insightful and accurate understanding by synthesizing and applying knowledge from text.
Identifies some relationships among characters, settings, and plots within and across texts.	Connects relationships, themes, perspectives and universal truths within and across texts.	Accurately, insightfully, and thoroughly synthesizes and applies knowledge gained from themes, perspectives, or universal truths within and across texts.
Makes some superficial connections within and across text, possibly revealing major misconceptions.	Effectively addresses specific cross-text task, revealing overall understanding despite possible minor misconceptions.	Responds to specific cross-text task thoroughly and insightfully without misconceptions.
Identifies some text elements and features of different genres.	Demonstrates knowledge of different genres, including purpose, text elements, and features.	Analyzes purposes, text elements, and features of different genres.
Identifies some text elements and features authors use to enhance meaning and to make content accessible.	Identifies how authors use text elements and features to enhance meaning and to make content accessible to readers.	Analyzes and evaluates how authors use text elements and features to enhance meaning and to make content accessible to readers.
Attempts to determine meaning of unfamiliar words encountered in text.	Determines meaning of some unfamiliar words and phrases and multiple meaning words encountered in context.	Integrates multiple strategies to determine meaning of unfamiliar words and phrases and multiple meaning words in context.

MEAP Reading “Met Standards” Performance Level Descriptors (Across Grades 3-8)
(Addresses Grades 2-7 Knowledge and Skills)

In Grade 3:	In Grade 4:	In Grade 5:	In Grade 6:	In Grade 7:	In Grade 8:
Identifies important details and how they relate to the main/major ideas in narrative and informational text.	Identifies important details and how they relate to and support the main/major ideas in narrative and informational text.	Retells, summarizes, and builds inferences from text.	Retells, summarizes, and builds inferences from text.	Builds inferences, summarizes, and applies knowledge from text.	Builds inferences, summarizes, and applies knowledge from text.
Identifies relationships among characters, settings, and plots within and across texts.	Compares and contrasts characters, settings, and plots within and across texts.	Identifies and explains relationships among characters and themes within and across texts.	Identifies and explains relationships among characters and global themes/universal truths within and across texts.	Connects relationships, themes, perspectives and universal truths within and across texts.	Connects relationships, themes, perspectives and universal truths within and across texts.
Addresses specific cross-text task, making connections, revealing understanding despite possible minor misconceptions.	Addresses specific cross-text task, making connections, revealing understanding despite possible minor misconceptions.	Effectively addresses specific cross-text task, making connections and revealing understanding despite possible minor misconceptions.	Effectively addresses specific cross-text task, making connections and revealing understanding despite possible minor misconceptions.	Effectively addresses specific cross-text task, revealing overall understanding despite possible minor misconceptions.	Effectively addresses specific cross-text task, revealing overall understanding despite possible minor misconceptions.
Identifies text elements and major features of different genres.	Identifies text elements and most features of different genres.	Demonstrates knowledge of different genres, including purposes, text elements, and features.	Demonstrates knowledge of different genres, including purposes, text elements, and features.	Demonstrates knowledge of different genres, including purposes, text elements, and features.	Demonstrates knowledge of different genres, including purposes, text elements, and features.
Identifies text elements and features authors and illustrators use to convey meaning.	Identifies text elements and features authors use to convey meaning.	Identifies author’s purpose and use of text elements and features to convey meaning.	Identifies author’s purpose and use of text elements and features to convey meaning.	Identifies how authors use text elements and features to enhance meaning and to make content accessible to readers.	Identifies how authors use text elements and features to enhance meaning and to make content accessible to readers.
Uses syntax, semantic, and structural cues to determine meaning of some unknown words and phrases.	Uses syntax, semantic, and structural cues to determine meaning of some unknown words and phrases and multiple meaning words.	Uses syntax, semantic, and structural cues to determine meaning of some unknown words and phrases and multiple meaning words.	Uses syntax, semantic, and structural cues to determine meaning of some unknown words and phrases and multiple meaning words.	Determines meaning of some unfamiliar words and phrases and multiple meaning words encountered in context.	Determines meaning of some unfamiliar words and phrases and multiple meaning words encountered in context.

MEAP Reading “Exceeded Standards” Performance Level Descriptors (Across Grades 3-8)
(Addresses Grades 2-7 Knowledge and Skills)

In Grade 3:	In Grade 4:	In Grade 5:	In Grade 6:	In Grade 7:	In Grade 8:
Identifies details and how they relate to and support the main/major ideas in narrative and informational text.	Identifies and analyzes details and how they relate to and support the main/major ideas in narrative and informational text.	Demonstrates insightful and accurate understanding by building inferences and making thorough connections within and across texts.	Demonstrates insightful and accurate understanding by building inferences and making thorough connections within and across texts.	Demonstrates insightful and accurate understanding by synthesizing and applying knowledge from text.	Demonstrates insightful and accurate understanding by synthesizing and applying knowledge from text.
Accurately compares and contrasts characters, settings, and plots within and across texts.	Accurately compares and contrasts characters, settings, and plots within and across texts.	Accurately explains relationships among texts, characters and themes within and across texts.	Accurately explains relationships among texts, characters and global themes/universal truths within and across texts.	Accurately, insightfully, and thoroughly synthesizes and applies knowledge gained from themes, perspectives, or universal truths within and across texts.	Accurately, insightfully, and thoroughly synthesizes and applies knowledge gained from themes, perspectives, or universal truths within and across texts.
Addresses specific cross-text task, effectively making valid and important connections without misconceptions.	Addresses specific cross-text task, effectively making valid and important connections without misconceptions.	Responds to specific cross-text task thoroughly and effectively without misconceptions.	Responds to specific cross-text task thoroughly and effectively without misconceptions.	Responds to specific cross-text task thoroughly and insightfully without misconceptions.	Responds to specific cross-text task thoroughly and insightfully without misconceptions.
Recognizes and explains text elements and features related to different genres.	Identifies and explains text elements and features of different genres.	Shows understanding of different genres, including purposes, text elements, and features.	Analyzes purposes, text elements, and features of different genres.	Analyzes purposes, text elements, and features of different genres.	Analyzes purposes, text elements, and features of different genres.
Analyzes and evaluates a variety of text elements and features authors and illustrators use to convey meaning.	Analyzes and evaluates text elements and features authors use to develop a theme and to aid comprehension.	Analyzes and evaluates author’s purpose and use of text elements and features to enhance meaning.	Analyzes and evaluates author’s purpose and use of text elements and features to enhance meaning.	Analyzes and evaluates how authors use text elements and features to enhance meaning and to make content accessible to readers.	Analyzes and evaluates how authors use text elements and features to enhance meaning and to make content accessible to readers.
Uses syntax, semantic, and structural cues to determine meaning of unfamiliar words and phrases in context.	Uses syntax, semantic, and structural cues to determine meaning of unfamiliar words and phrases and multiple meaning words in context.	Uses context clues to determine meaning of unfamiliar words and phrases and multiple meaning words in context.	Uses context clues to determine meaning of unfamiliar words and phrases and multiple meaning words in context.	Integrates multiple strategies to determine meaning of unfamiliar words and phrases and multiple meaning words in context.	Integrates multiple strategies to determine meaning of unfamiliar words and phrases and multiple meaning words in context.

MEAP Reading “Basic” Performance Level Descriptors (Across Grades 3-8)
(Addresses Grades 2-7 Knowledge and Skills)

In Grade 3:	In Grade 4:	In Grade 5:	In Grade 6:	In Grade 7:	In Grade 8:
Identifies the main/major ideas and limited details in narrative and informational text.	Identifies limited details and how they relate to the main/major ideas in narrative and informational text.	Attempts to retell, summarize, and build inferences based on literal comprehension.	Attempts to retell, summarize, and build inferences based on literal comprehension.	Attempts to retell, summarize, and build inferences based on literal comprehension.	Attempts to retell, summarize, and build inferences based on literal comprehension.
Identifies characters, plots, and settings in text.	Identifies some relationships among characters, settings, and plots within and across texts.	Identifies some relationships among characters, settings, and plots within and across texts.	Identifies some relationships among characters, settings, and plots within and across texts.	Identifies some relationships among characters, settings, and plots within and across texts.	Identifies some relationships among characters, settings, and plots within and across texts.
Makes some superficial text-to-text connections, possibly revealing major misconceptions.	Makes some superficial text-to-text connections, possibly revealing major misconceptions.	Makes some superficial connections within and across text, possibly revealing major misconceptions.	Makes some superficial connections within and across text, possibly revealing major misconceptions.	Makes some superficial connections within and across text, possibly revealing major misconceptions.	Makes some superficial connections within and across text, possibly revealing major misconceptions.
Identifies some text elements and features of different genres.	Identifies some text elements and features of different genres.	Identifies some text elements and features of different genres.	Identifies some text elements and features of different genres.	Identifies some text elements and features of different genres.	Identifies some text elements and features of different genres.
Identifies some text elements and features authors and illustrators use to convey meaning.	Identifies some text elements and features authors use to convey meaning.	Identifies some text elements and features authors use to convey meaning.	Identifies some text elements and features authors use to convey meaning.	Identifies some text elements and features authors use to enhance meaning and to make content accessible.	Identifies some text elements and features authors use to enhance meaning and to make content accessible.
Makes limited use of context cues to determine meaning of frequently encountered words.	Makes limited use of context cues to determine meaning of frequently encountered words.	Makes limited use of context clues to determine meaning of frequently encountered words.	Makes limited use of context clues to determine meaning of frequently encountered words.	Attempts to determine meaning of unfamiliar words encountered in text.	Attempts to determine meaning of unfamiliar words encountered in text.